

REMARKS

With the above amendments, claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 7-9 are hereby canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 is hereby amended. No new matter is being added.

Previous Rejections

Applicants have hereby amended claim 1 in accordance with Examiner's suggestions so as to overcome the Hyodo et al reference. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1.

In addition, claims 7-9 are hereby canceled without prejudice. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue claims 7-9 in a divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application in the future.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims 1-6, as amended hereby, now overcome the previous rejections.

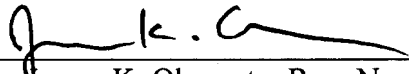
Conclusion

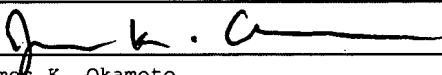
For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 are now patentably distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 436-2111 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2427.

Respectfully submitted,

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